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(2) whether it is a fact that owing to the discontinuance or neglect of *nanal* planting, the carrying capacity of the rivers in the Cauvery delta has seriously diminished ?

A.—(1) The Government are aware of the existence of the dam referred to, and the difficulties arising therefrom. The French Government have proposed to improve the dam by converting it into a regulator but there is no guarantee as to when it will be done. The Collector has however been directed to safeguard the interests of the British ryots adequately by regulating the Kavadi channel head sluices as occasion arises.

(2) As much funds as can be spared under present conditions are being allotted for conservancy operations. The Government have no reason to believe that the alleged discontinuance or neglect of conservancy operations has reduced the carrying capacity of the delta rivers.

Surplus water overflowing the Pennar Anicut.

268 *Q.*—Mr. K. Sitarama Reddiyar : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount of surplus water overflowing the Pennar anicut near Tirukkoyilur unutilized for irrigation purposes for the last twenty years ?

A.—The Government have not the information asked for.

Mr. K. Sitarama Reddiyar :—" Will the Government be pleased to call for the information ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" In deference to the wish of my hon. Friend, I have asked our Chief Engineer and he says that gaugings have not been kept, but the information will be collected."

Law Officers.

Age of Government pleaders and public prosecutors.

269 *Q.*—The Raja of Ramnad : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to furnish the age of the various Government pleaders and public prosecutors employed in all the districts on 1st January 1924 ?

A.—The Government have no information.

The Raja of Ramnad :—" May I request the hon. the Law Member to kindly furnish the information in view of the number of Resolutions that have been tabled ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" An inquisition regarding the ages of the various Government pleaders and public prosecutors in all the districts may not be of great assistance, but if, in regard to any particular district where there is any trouble, this age question is raised, I have no objection to call for information."

Magistracy.

Special Magistrates in the Madura and Tanjore districts.

270 *Q.*—Mr. A. V. Bhanoji Rao : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the experiment of appointing Special Magistrates in

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the Madura and Tanjore districts has been tried as stated by his predecessor in office in the discussion on the separation of Executive and Judicial functions in the Council on the 14th September 1922; and, if so, with what results?

A.—No. The experiment has been postponed pending consideration of the proposals of the Committee on the separation of functions.

Police.

Police stations and Police force in municipal and non-municipal areas.

271 *Q.*—Mr. M. Ratnaswami: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) the number of members of the Police force in municipal and in non-municipal areas respectively;

(2) the number of police stations in municipal and in non-municipal areas respectively; and

(3) the average distance between police stations in non-municipal areas?

A.—A statement is attached:—

	In municipal areas.	In non-municipal areas.
(1) Strength of the Station staff, i.e., sub-inspectors, sergeants, head constables and constables	6,656	17,529
(2) Number of police stations ...	132	884

(3) The average distance between police stations in non-municipal areas is 14 miles.

Recruitment of sub-inspectors of police.

272 *Q.*—The Raja of Ramnad: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state why in the recent recruitment of sub-inspectors of police the usual district committees composed of officials and non-officials were not set up?

A.—The recruitment of sub-inspectors was postponed for some time pending a consideration of the report of the Police Committee. When it was found that the recruitment of a limited number was unavoidable it would have been too late to go through the ordinary procedure of constituting selection committees in each district, and a departure from the rule was permitted, as a special case, in order to save delay. All the candidates were however inspected and classified by Deputy Inspectors-General in order to secure uniformity of standard.

Expenditure for the Secret Service Fund in 1923.

273 *Q.*—Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of money spent on account of the Secret Service Fund in 1923;